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CONTACT: Maureen Cragin

Ryan Vaart

(202) 225-2539

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JOEL HEFLEY**  
**Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities**

**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000**  
**Division B—Military Construction Authorizations**

I am pleased to present this morning the report of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities. As a subcommittee, we have spent considerable effort in examining the Department's budget request for the coming fiscal year. On a bipartisan basis, we found the budget request inadequate to address the scope of the need identified by the military services. Additional resources are required to begin to fix the long-standing and corrosive problems in the Nation's enduring military infrastructure. This has been a problem in the budget request for some time.

The Administration compounded the deficiencies in its budget proposal by building its FY2000 MILCON program upon a risky fiscal foundation. The incremental funding of military construction projects on an outlay-rate basis would surely lead to cost increases and delays in the delivery of facilities. The legislation reported by the subcommittee would reject the Department's proposal on a project-by-project basis.

Mr. Chairman, with the strong support of you and Mr. Skelton, we worked to try to find a solution that would address the needs of the military services. The recommendations of the subcommittee would restore 3.1 billion dollars in budget authority for military construction. That seems like a lot of money – even in this town. And, certainly, there were a lot of competing demands for those funds. However, the subcommittee felt very strongly that endorsing incremental funding would be shirking our responsibility to the taxpayer. No member of the subcommittee was willing to do that.

With these funds, we set out first to fix the broken program left to us by the Department. Nowhere was the need to do this more apparent than in the area of military housing. The Administration proposed to construct or renovate over 6,200 units of military family housing and begin the construction or renovation of 43 barracks, dormitories, and BEQs for the single enlisted. That requirement costs nearly \$1.4 billion for the coming fiscal year. The Administration asked for only \$313 million – 22 cents on the dollar – to meet the FY2000 requirement. The legislation we bring today would add nearly \$1.1 billion to the budget to ensure that this housing is built and occupied as soon as possible. In addition, our recommendations would fund an additional \$75 million in military housing projects.

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Similarly, we have funded the training, readiness, and other requirements of the active and reserve components. For example, the Department funded a \$251 million MILCON requirement for the Guard and Reserve at \$78 million. This legislation would provide the additional \$173 million in funding necessary for to move forward with those requirements and would also provide an additional \$187 million in support of the reserve components.

Regrettably, the subcommittee could not fix all of the problems in the budget request nor could we address adequately, in my judgment, the unfunded requirements that continue to pile up due to the broad inattention of the Department to critical infrastructure upgrades. I believe, however, we have done the prudent thing. With this legislation, we will minimize risk to the most essential military construction projects and programs of the military services. We will dedicate limited, additional resources to meeting the unfunded needs of the military services. We will also continue to urge the Department of Defense to exercise appropriate stewardship on behalf of the taxpayer in the military infrastructure and facilities that serve as the platform for the defense of the Nation. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who serve every day deserve no less than that.

In closing, I want to express again my appreciation to the members of the subcommittee, especially the ranking Democratic member, Gene Taylor, for their contributions to this bill as well as their patience, understanding, and cooperation as we worked through a difficult budget request. Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee reported this legislation by voice vote. It is a bipartisan effort and I urge all members to join in support of the subcommittee's recommendations.

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